



Open Space Committee

Date: Thurs, December 12, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Town Hall Annex, First floor conference room
730 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA

Minutes

Attendance: Ann LeRoyer, David White, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Brian Kelder, Wendy Richter, John Pickle, Emily Sullivan.

Members Absent: Shirley Canniff, Teresa DeBenedictis.

1. Minutes
 - a. The Minutes from November 14, 2019 were reviewed and revisions discussed. Elisabeth Carr-Jones moved to approve the minutes as revised, Wendy Richter seconded, all were in favor; motion approved.
2. OSC Administration/Communications
 - a. No responses have come in yet regarding the open OSC membership openings posted on the Town website.
 - b. Emily Sullivan worked with Adam Kurowski to resolve the discrepancy with the QR code on the Take A Walk walking route maps to the Neighborhood Maps page on the website.
 - c. Brian Kelder reminded committee members to send in photos for the Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces story map. Photos were assigned as follows: Menotomy Rocks Park – John Pickle, Wellington Park – Emily Sullivan, Robbins Farm Park – Elisabeth Carr-Jones.
 - d. Wendy Richter continues to manage the OSC facebook account. The account has 65 friends. Wendy will post photos of Arlington open spaces on the page to generate more interest.
 - e. The annual committee reports are due in early January for inclusion in the Town's Annual Report. Ann LeRoyer will prepare a draft and circulate it for comments. Emily Sullivan will coordinate the final report with the Planning Department.
 - f. Annual budget requests are also due in January. The committee voted to request an increase to \$500 (previously \$300) to cover some costs of the Plan update. Ann LeRoyer will communicate with Jenny Raitt of the Planning Department about the request.
3. Take A Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces
 - a. Publicity for the walking maps is planned for the spring.
4. Picture Post
 - a. John Pickle will construct caps for the new posts over the winter. In spring, new Picture Posts will be more closely considered at Spy Pond Park, Wellington Park, and along the Mill Brook. The Picture Posts webpage has been transferred to Univ. of Oklahoma (<https://picturepost.ou.edu/index.jsp>).

5. Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022)
 - a. The OSC submitted a final application for a FY2021 CPA grant to fund the Open Space and Recreation Plan update. Grant interviews will be conducted by the Community Preservation Act Committee in Jan 2020.
 - b. Emily Sullivan volunteered to create a new google drive to organize the Open Space and Recreation Plan update.
6. Updates on CPA projects
 - a. Emily Sullivan reported that the Veteran's Memorial at Cooke's Hollow CPA application was rescinded so that the Veteran's Council could conduct more public engagement around the memorial's site selection.
 - b. Emily Sullivan reported that the Department of Planning & Community Development submitted a CPA application for FY2021 for a public planning process for the Minuteman Bikeway.
 - c. Emily Sullivan reported that the Mystic River Watershed Association submitted an application for FY2021 CPA funding for the last phase of the Wellington Park project, which will focus on adding park amenities to the site.
 - d. Emily Sullivan reported that the Recreation Department submitted an application for FY2021 CPA funding for the Reservoir Master Plan Phase 2 construction.
7. Other News and Reports
 - a. The Zoning Board of Appeals held a hearing for the Thorndike Place Development (Mugar) on 12/10/2019. The hearing will continue in April 2020 after the developer has conducted new environmental and traffic assessments of the property.
 - b. The Lexington Planning Board will have a preliminary meeting on December 18 to discuss the 840 Emerson Gardens Balanced Housing Development adjacent to Arlington's Great Meadows (AGM). The OSC discussed how access to and parking for users of AGM should be maintained in the development's design. David White will draft a letter expressing the committee's concerns about access.
 - c. Envision Arlington's Annual Town Survey will be distributed for online responses in early January. This year's Survey will include open space questions, which will help guide the Plan update.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by Emily Sullivan